

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chewning et al. Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Chewning in view of Champlin et al. (The Office Action states that claims 8-10 were "anticipated" by Chewning in view of Champlin, but the Applicants understand this to be a typographical error.) Claims 3, 13 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 12 and 16 have been amended, and claims 3, 8-10, 13-15 and 18 have been canceled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 12, 16 and 17 presently under consideration. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**Claims 3, 13 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.** The Applicants would like to express their appreciation to Examiner Anwah during the brief telephone interview conducted on September 11, 2006, in which the Applicants' proposed response to the objection of claim 3 was discussed. In that telephone call, it was noted that claim 3 depended from claim 2, which depended from claim 1. Notwithstanding intervening claim 2, the Applicants' proposed combining the limitations of only claims 1 and 3 into a single amended claim. The Examiner acknowledged that such an amendment would overcome the objection.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 3 and claim 3 has been canceled. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13 and claim 13 has been canceled, and claim 16 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 18 and claim 18 has been canceled. Amended claims 1, 11 and 16 are now allowable.

**Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chewning.** Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Claims 1, 11 and 16 have been amended as described above, and therefore the rejection of those claims has been overcome. Claim 12 has been amended to correct a typographical error (claim 12 originally depended from claim 1, which was incorrect -- it should have depended from claim 11). In addition, because claim 2 depends from claim 1, claim 12 depends from claim 11, and claim 17 depends from claim 16, the rejection of claims 2, 12 and 17 has been overcome for the same reasons provided above with respect to claims 1, 11 and 16.

Although claims 4-7 were not specifically addressed in the Office Action, claims 4 and 6 have been amended to revise claim dependencies in view of the amendments mentioned above. Because claims 4-7 depend from now allowable claim 1, the rejection of those claims has been overcome for the same reasons provided above with respect to claim 1.

**Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Chewning in view of Champlin.** Claims 8-10 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot.

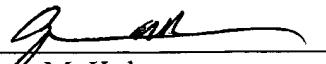
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 421262000500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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